

# Visitor Guide: Spring 2012

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



## Welcome to the Land of Giants

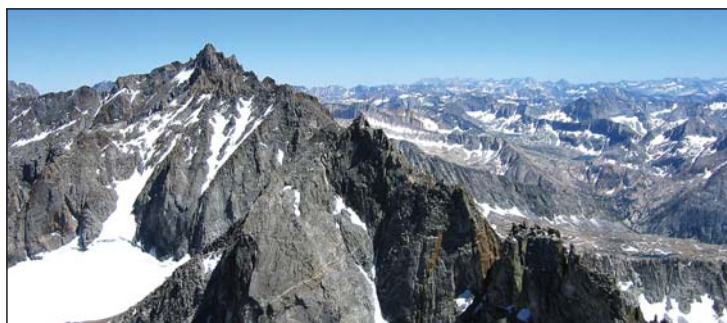
YOU EXPECT GIANT TREES and huge canyons—and you won't be disappointed. What may surprise you, however, is that the whole of these parks is even greater than the sum of their famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494' (the highest elevation in the lower 48 states), these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from warm foothills to cool forests to the cold High Sierra. It means diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

The caretakers of this landscape are also diverse. This is not one, but two national parks—Sequoia and Kings Canyon—managed by the National Park Service as one. A national monument, which is part of a national forest, borders the two parks. Researchers

with the U.S. Geological Survey conduct scientific studies on park resources here. The Sequoia Natural History Association runs bookstores at visitor centers, then plows those funds into park education and research efforts. Another non-profit, the Sequoia Parks Foundation, supports important projects, from outreach to trails.

All park partners, public and private, cooperate to meet a challenging mission—providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. *You* are the most important partner! Experience these parks and learn all you can. Your help is needed to preserve and share these treasured landscapes.



**HOW MUCH SNOW IS THERE?:** As of March 14, the answer was "not much!" In the southern Sierra Nevada where these parks lie, the snow held less than 30% of its "normal" amount of water on that date. Snow may still fly, so check the forecast. Be prepared if it calls for frosty air and slick roads, or explore the warmer foothills. They offer snow-free camping and hiking, plus wildflowers that bloom even when higher elevations lie cold and ice-bound.

### In This Issue

Bears & food storage .....	11
Camping .....	4
Exploring on your own:	
Sequoia .....	6
Kings Canyon & USFS .....	7
Facilities & hours .....	8-9
Lodging .....	5
Map .....	8
Park ecosystems .....	3
Phone numbers .....	2
Ranger programs & snowshoe walks .....	5
Road information .....	12
Safety .....	10
Snowplay & sledding .....	6-7
Traffic delays .....	12
Visitor centers .....	2
Wilderness permits .....	11

## Telephone & Internet

**EMERGENCY — DIAL 911;** no coins needed in payphones. Cell service is very limited in most parts of these parks; phone locations on pages 8-9.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

- 1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu, then road/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.
- nps.gov/seki
- Twitter (SequoiaKingsNPS)
- Facebook (Sequoia-and-Kings-Canyon-National-Parks)

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, dot.ca.gov

### Cell service

Very limited. Some service in Grant Grove.

### Wi-Fi

At lobbies in Wuksachi Lodge, John Muir Lodge, & Grant Grove Restaurant.

## Translations

**Welcome** - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

**Bienvenidos** - Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

**Bienvenue** - Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

**Willkommen** - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

**Benvenuti** - La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

## Visitor Centers

Each offers different exhibits and films. They sell many items including books, maps, and postcards. All purchases support the parks!

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center

(NPS) Opens 5/26, daily 9am-5pm. Book store. 1-559-565-3793.

### Foothills Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm; 8am-6pm starting 5/26. Exhibits on the foothills. Book store. Starting ##, Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Lodgepole Visitor Center (details on page 5). 1-559-565-4212. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center through 5/25, then at Wilderness Office.

### Giant Forest Museum

(NPS) Open 5/11, 9am-5pm. Starting 5/25, 9am-6pm (Lodgepole Visitor Center open year-round). No payphone; closest at Lodgepole & Wolverton.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/24, then 8am-5pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Book store. Local wilderness permits issued until 1/2 hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm until 5/11, then 8am-4:30pm. Starting 5/25, 7am-5pm. Movie on bears; exhibits. Book store. Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Foothills Visitor Center (details page 5). 1-559-565-4436. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center until 5/25, then indoors.

### Mineral King Ranger Station

(NPS) Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch until it opens between 5/25 and 6/21, depending on conditions; then daily 8am-4pm. 1-559-565-3768.

### USFS Hume Lake District Office

(FS) 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251.

## Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*. Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey. Publisher: SNHA. Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

### National Park Service (NPS)

1-559-565-3341, nps.gov/seki

### Forest Service (FS)

1-559-784-1500, fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

### Geological Survey (USGS)

1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov

### Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

1-559-565-3341, sequoiahistory.org

### Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF)

1-559-739-1668, sequoiaparksfoundation.org

### DNC Parks and Resorts @ Sequoia (DNC) - concessioner

1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

### Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS) - concessioner

1-866-KCANYON (522-6966), sequoia-kingscanyon.com



## Make connections to your national park with SNHA

The Sequoia Natural History Association commits itself to enriching visitor experiences and promoting awareness of public lands through educational programs, publications, and financial support. This non-profit funds education, interpretation, research, and preservation of the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

### The SNHA:

- Provides the Park Partnership program
- Operates visitor center stores
- Provides free & low-cost school programs
- Purchases supplies for ranger programs
- Operates Beetle Rock Education Center
- Funds exhibits & research projects
- Manages Pear Lake Backcountry Ski Hut
- Provides visitor information
- Rents bear-resistant food canisters
- Publishes park books & maps
- Supports protection of black bears
- Provides volunteer opportunities for park projects
- Offers SFI & EdVenture course plus guide services
- Publishes this guide



Sequoia  
Natural History  
Association



Big Trees Trail in  
the Giant Forest

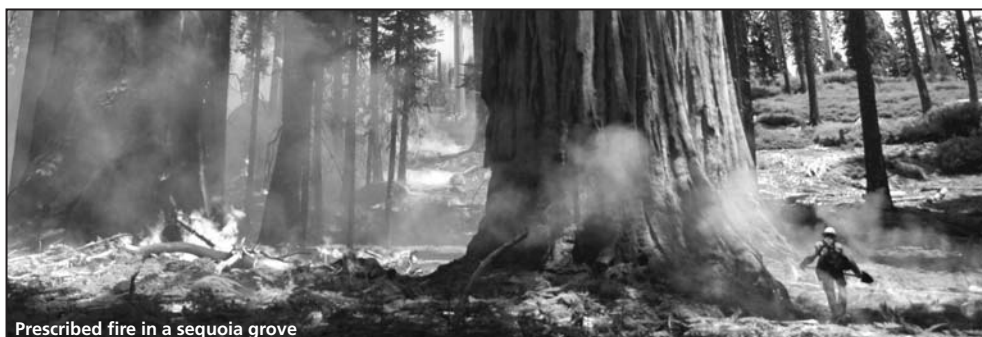


## Change: Natural & Unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

## Fire: A Natural Change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes. Two of these resulted in big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous

for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but, when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

## Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often, they keep each other in check.

When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!

### Imminent Alien Threats!

**Star thistle** is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close! If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.



**New Zealand mud snails** completely take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick on gear. Check boots & waders thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



## 4

## Camping

Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the Park & the National Forest (more details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table & fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

**Food storage must be done correctly all year due to black bears.** See page 11.

**\* Summer reservations** for Lodgepole & Dorst (in Sequoia NP) & reservable campgrounds (**\*** on the chart) on National Forest (FS) available up to 6 months in advance of date desired: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

### Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

**Up to 6 people:** Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

**7 to 19 people:** Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at Canyon View, \$35/site.

**Larger groups:** Call ahead to request summer group tent sites. For Sunset or Canyon View: 1-559-565-4335. Group-site reservations in Dorst or national forest: 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### Fire Restrictions

Always check bulletin boards at each area.

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't transport it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood, please burn it.
- Fires must be out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a FS ranger.

### Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trash-cans or leave them here. Recycle them at home.

### Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: roadside camping permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger about options.

### Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only.

Use generators 9am-9pm only. At Lodgepole & Dorst use them 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page.

There are limited spaces for RVs over 30 feet.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foot hills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation, usually snow-free
<b>Potwisha - 40 sites</b> Open all year	\$18	Nature programs (summer). River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
<b>Buckeye Flat - 28 sites</b> Opens 3/30	\$18 No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
<b>South Fork - 10 sites</b> Open all year	\$12 May - October No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Vault toilets. No drinking water; non-potable water available starting 5/21, conditions permitting.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	No RVs or trailers. Road opens between 5/25 & 6/21.
<b>Atwell Mill - 21 sites</b> Opens between 5/24 & 6/21	\$12	River & sequoias. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City (summer).
<b>Cold Springs - 40 sites</b> Opens between 6/1 & 6/21	\$12	Pay phone. River nearby. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations recommended in summer
<b>*Lodgepole - 205 sites</b> Opens by 5/1, snow permitting	\$20 during reservation period, then \$18. Closes in winter.	Nature programs (summer), pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Showers, laundry, & food nearby.
<b>*Dorst - 210 sites</b> Open 6/22. Last night 9/4.	\$20.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Free hourly shuttle to Wuksachi & Lodgepole Village starts 6/22.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	
<b>Azalea - 110 sites</b> Open all year	\$18 (\$10 when snow limits services)	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
<b>Crystal Springs - 50 sites</b> Opens 5/18, snow permitting	Tent/RV sites \$18 Group sites \$35	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer.
<b>Sunset - 157 sites</b> Opens 5/18, snow permitting	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Area closed until May 4
<b>Sentinel - 83 sites</b> Opens 5/4	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
<b>Sheep Creek - 111 sites</b> Opens by 5/18	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
<b>Canyon View - 12 sites</b> Opens by 5/18	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
<b>Moraine - 120 sites</b> Open as needed after 5/18	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Spring opening dates depend on weather; call 1-559-338-2251 to confirm.

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	*Reservable in summer.
<b>*Princess - 88 sites</b> Opens 5/11	\$18 single	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station.
<b>*Hume Lake - 74 sites</b> Opens 5/11	\$20 single	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, & laundry nearby.
<b>Tenmile - 13 sites</b> Opens 5/11	\$16 No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
<b>Landslide - 9 sites</b> Opens 5/11	\$16	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
<b>Convict Flat - 5 sites</b> Opens not before 4/27.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	*Reservable in summer.
<b>*Stony Creek - 49 sites</b> First night open 5/11	\$20 single	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, & showers nearby at lodge.
<b>*Upper Stony - 18 sites</b> First night open 5/11	\$16	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby.
<b>Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites</b> Open with snowmelt.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets.

## Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

### Sequoia National Park

#### Wuksachi Village

(DNC) All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts. Ask about Bearpaw High Sierra Camp in the wilderness.

### Kings Canyon National Park

#### Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

(KCPS) All year. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, showers.

#### Cedar Grove Lodge in Kings Canyon

(KCPS) May 17 to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Motel, restaurant, laundry, market, showers.

### Sequoia National Forest

#### Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

Year-round. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; [mslodge.com](http://mslodge.com). On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal/children's activities.

#### Stony Creek Lodge (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Early May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://sequoia-kingscanyon.com). On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.

#### Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Historic station south of Grant Grove.

### Private Land within National Park/Forest

\* *These facilities cannot be regulated, evaluated, or endorsed by National Park or National Forest.*

#### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Opens between 5/26 and 6/21, depending on conditions. Summer: 1-559-561-3223; Winter: 1-805-528-2730; [silvercityresort.com](http://silvercityresort.com). Cabins, chalets, store, restaurant, bakery, gifts, showers. No gasoline.

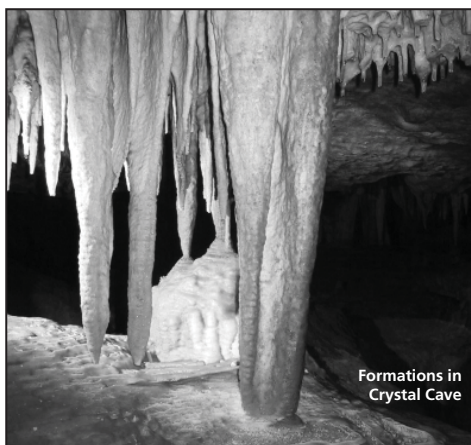
#### \* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

Open mid-April to mid-November. Reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

### Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see [nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit](http://nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Programs & Tours



Formations in Crystal Cave

### Crystal Cave Tours

Opens 5/12. Tickets sold only at Lodgepole & Foothills visitor centers, not at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance (see traffic-delay information on back page).

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree (map, page 8). Maximum vehicle length on the road is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the ½-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No baby backpacks, strollers, or tripods. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group reservations, wild cave tours, school tours, and other special options: 1-559-565-3759. Note: Tours are weather-dependent and subject to change.

#### 45-Minute Cave Tours Daily

- Weekdays: 5/12 - 6/15, 11am, noon, 2pm, 3pm. Starting 6/16, every 1/2 hour 10:30am-4:30pm.
- Saturday/Sunday: 5/12-6/15, 11am-4pm on the hour. Starting 6/16, every 1/2 hour 10am-6pm. Additional tours Memorial Day weekend.

Fees: Age 5-12 \$7; age 13-61 \$13; age 4 & under \$2; Golden Age (age 62 & up) & Golden Access pass-holders \$12. National Park & Interagency passes do not apply. Discount for SNHA members!

**Historic tours** start 6/28. Thursday-Sunday eves.

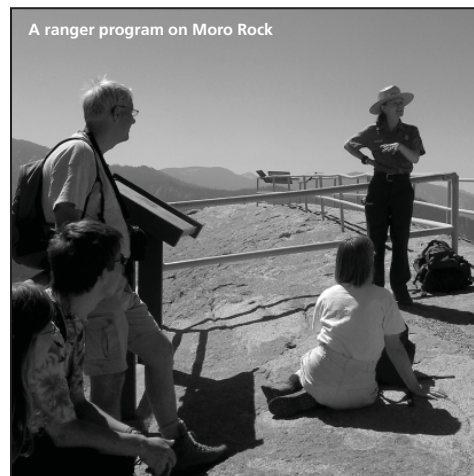
**Discovery tours** start 6/25. Weekdays 4:15pm.

**Adult tours** start 6/16 Friday-Sunday mornings, first tour of the day. Age 18 and up only.

### Junior Ranger Program

FREE for all ages! From age 5 to 105, you can be a Junior Ranger! To earn your badge, pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and complete the activities for your age group.

A ranger program on Moro Rock



### Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Join in a walk, talk, or campfire program at Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, or Cedar Grove. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules. Watch for more activities as summer progresses.

### Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore this area with SFI guides. Guides help you observe, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! SNHA members receive discounts on many of these programs and activities: 1-559-565-4251; [sfi@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:sfi@sequoiahistory.org).

### River Cleanups

*Friends of the South Fork Kings River* holds river cleanups on 6/2, 7/7 & 9/8. Drop-ins welcome. Ask at Grant Grove or Cedar Grove Visitor Center.

### Touring on Horseback

Hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, guided trips. Openings & closings depend on weather.



#### Cedar Grove

May to mid-October

1-559-565-3464 summer, 1-559-337-2314 off season

#### Grant Grove

Early June to September

1-559-335-9292 summer, 1-559-799-7247 off season

#### Horse Corral

Late May through September

At Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest  
1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell



Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or trail guide (sold at visitor centers).

## The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined!

### Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food to keep it away from bears.

**Marble Falls Trail** climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

### Paradise Creek

At Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #28 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

## Giant Forest

### Giant Forest Museum

Closed until 5/11; see page 2 (Lodgepole Visitor Center is open). Until opening, no parking here; use Big Trees Trail parking as marked.

### Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1 km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start at Giant Forest Museum. Once snow melts, parking at the trail is only for cars with placards. 1 hour round trip.

### Congress Trail


A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

### General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree. Starting 5/24, a free shuttle stops at each one:

- **Main Trail** - Opens by 5/18. This trail has some stairs. It runs 1/2 mile down to the tree; the walk back is uphill. Drive two miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy for

those with disabled placards only). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs.

 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from Generals Hwy to Sherman Tree. Starting in May, parking there is for those with disabled placards only. If you have no placard but can't make the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor centers for a temporary permit.

### Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

Road opens by 5/18. No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. See page 12 for details on weekend/holiday closure of this road. Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide. Two miles from Generals Highway. Do not climb if steps are icy/snowy.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias tower over this fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails;

use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here: including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km to Mt. Whitney (14,494 feet/4417 m), highest peak in the lower 48 states.

## Lodgepole

### Lodgepole Visitor Center

Exhibits, film. Daily 9am-4:30pm. Details, page 2.

### Tokopah Falls Trail

1.7 miles (2.7 km) to cliffs & a waterfall. Be careful! Start in Lodgepole Campground. 500-foot/152-meter elevation gain; allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

### Little Baldy

Ascends 700 vertical feet in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit and grand view. Start at Little Baldy Saddle, on the Generals Hwy 9 miles north of General Sherman Tree. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

## Mineral King

See page 8 for details.

## See Sequoia By Shuttle

### Lodgepole-Wuksachi-Dorst Route

Free. Hourly; leaves Lodgepole 9am - 6pm. Starting 6/22, leaves Dorst on the 1/2 hour 9:30-6:30.

### Giant Forest Route

Free. Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree. Every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. 1/2-hour ride one way.

### Wolverton - Sherman Tree Route

Free. Stops at main trail & at accessible trail on Generals Hwy every 20 minutes from 9am - 6:30pm.

### Moro Rock - Crescent Meadow Route

Free. Leaves Giant Forest Museum every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. 15-minute round trip. Moro Rock stop only on outbound trip. Road closed to private vehicles on weekends & holidays (page 12).

### Giant Forest - Visalia Route

\$15 round trip. No additional park entrance fee. Reservations required; call 1-877-BUS-HIKE or sequoia shuttle.com. 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour from 6am - 10am. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia every hour from 2:30pm - 6:30pm.

In-park shuttle questions: 559-565-4436.

↖ To Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park, and (180)

Dorst Campground

Wuksachi Lodge & Restaurant

Lodgepole Market & Visitor Center

Lodgepole Campground Shuttle parking

Wolverton Shuttle parking

Sherman Tree Main Trail & Parking

Sherman Tree Wheelchair-Accessible Trail

Giant Forest Museum

Crescent Meadow

Moro Rock

↓ To Three Rivers, Visalia, and (198)



Runs May 24 to Sept 9

**Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or trail guide (sold at visitor centers). Be safe!**

## Grant Grove

### Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

Exhibits/film in English & Spanish. Details, page 2.

### Grant Tree Trail

This 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail visits one of the world's five largest living trees. President Coolidge named it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. Trail guides sold at visitor center. North then west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

### North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1 1/2-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking area.

### Panoramic Point Road

Open by 5/24. A narrow road up to a Sierran vista. Trailers/RVs not recommended. Go east through visitor-center parking & follow signs. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

### Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

Road opens with melt. One of the world's largest groves. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles south of Grant Grove). Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; go 2 miles to parking lot.

### Big Baldy Ridge

Great views over Redwood Canyon from the top (8209 feet); elevation gain 600 feet (183m). Round trip 4 miles (6.4km). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead.

## Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

The road into this area opens 5/4 at noon. It closes every November due to rockfall.

*Friends of the South Fork Kings River* holds river cleanups on 6/2, 7/7 & 9/8. Drop-ins welcome. Ask at Grant Grove or Cedar Grove visitor centers.

### Canyon View

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.

### Knapp's Cabin

During the Roaring '20s, a California businessman stored gear in this small cabin for lavish fishing

trips. Two miles east of the village road.

### Roaring River Falls

A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. East of the Village 3 miles. Paved, accessible with assistance.

### Zumwalt Meadow

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Parking is 4 1/2 miles east of Cedar Grove Village road. Buy a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

### Mist Falls

One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4 - 5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip from Road's End. 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles.

### Hotel Creek Trail

Starts .2 mile north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

## National Forest (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.

### Converse Basin

Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop, 6 miles north of Grant Grove to a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

### Indian Basin

A one-mile accessible trail & one-mile unpaved trail. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Turn left past the dump station to trailhead parking area.

### Hume Lake

Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on HumeLake Road.

### Buck Rock Lookout

A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.



The Kings Canyon

## The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the experience of these parks. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation, and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, thereby earning its name.

An intense effort to upgrade the highway is underway. For decades, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. Today's work is building a route that can handle today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks. Stop, read, and enjoy the views at these and other overlooks:

### Kings Canyon Overlook

View the High Sierra wilderness from this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

### Redwood Mountain Overlook

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove on the southwest side of the Generals Highway. Views of one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

### Eleven Range Overlook

South of the Giant Forest, this turnout offers views to the west over the foothills and the distant valley.



The Generals Highway in Giant Forest

## Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Opens 5/11. Hours & details on page 2. No parking until it opens; park at Big Trees Trail in winter.

### Crystal Cave (NPS)

A major park highlight! Tours start May 14. Buy tickets well in advance at Foothills or Lodgepole visitor centers. Details, page 3.

**Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS):** Runs 5/24-9/9, 9am to 5:30pm. Details page 2.

## Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2.

### Village Center Shops (DNC): Opens April

- Market, Gift Shop, & Laundry: Opens 4/6. Daily 10am-5pm through 4/27, then 9am-6pm. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- Snack Bar: Opens 4/28; weekends 9am-6pm. Starting 5/25, daily 8am-7:45pm.
- Deli: Opens 5/25. Daily 11am-6pm.
- Showers: Open 4/28; 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm.

### U.S. Post Office

Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm; lobby 24 hours. Facility may close permanently in mid-May. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262. 1-559-565-3678.

**Pay Telephones** (cell phones rarely work)  
Outside visitor center & market.

## Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round service, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

**Dining Room:** Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. Lounge 5-10pm. 1-559-565-4070.

### Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Pay telephones at main lodge.

### Gift Shop

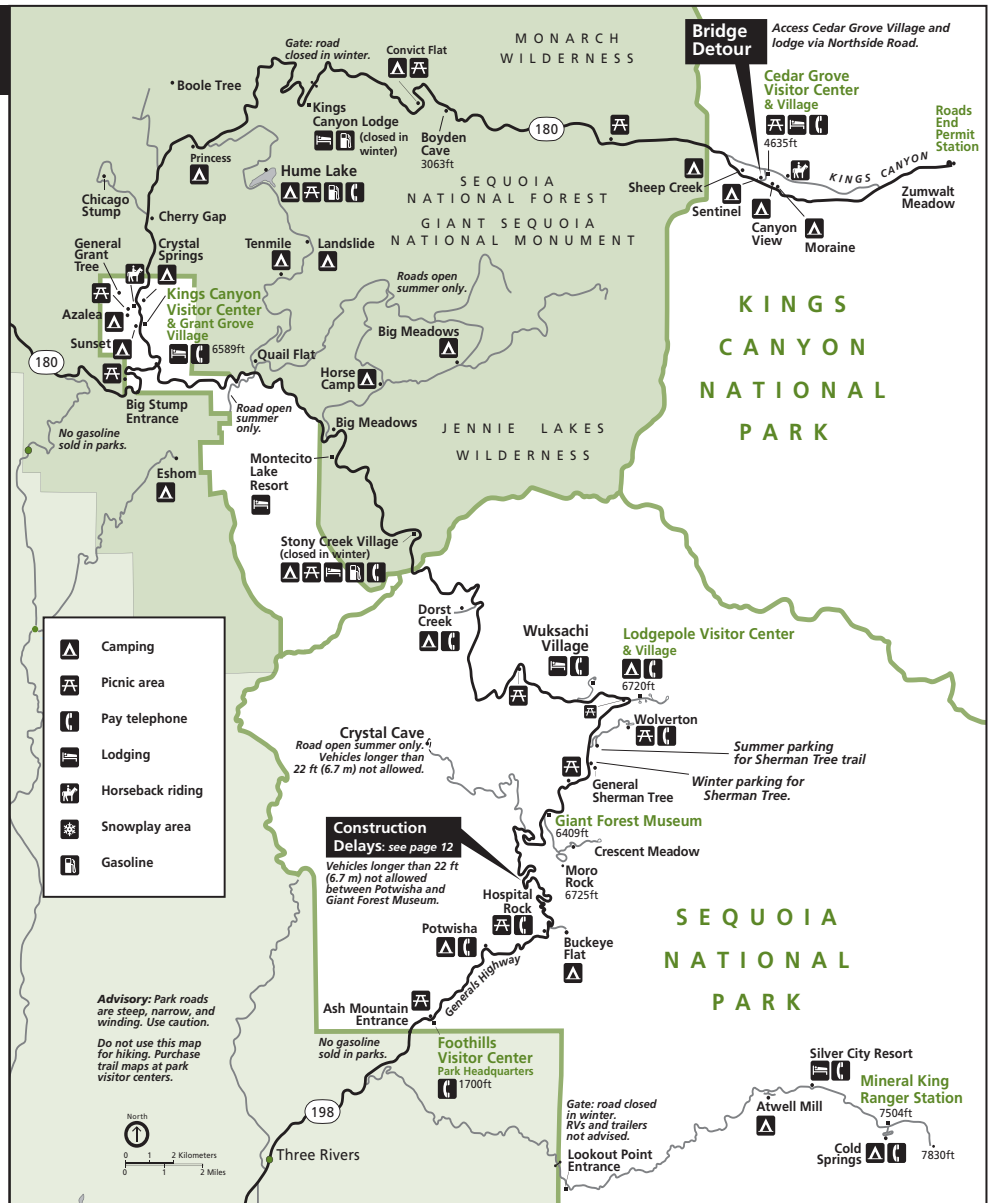
Daily 8am-8pm in main lodge.

## Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Summer picnic area; winter snow-play area.

### Wolverton BBQ & Dinner Theater (DNC):

Nightly 6/11-9/3, weather permitting; 6-7pm. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat outdoor dinner while you hear



family-friendly tales of park history. Tickets at Lodgepole Market or Wuksachi Lodge.

## Mineral King Area

Road to the area opens between May 25 and June 21, depending on conditions. 7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, twisting road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline.

### Ranger Station (NPS)

Opens between 5/25 and 6/21, depending on conditions; 8am-4pm. Until then, self-issue wilderness permits on the station porch. Details, page 2.

### Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phones rarely work.

### Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Opens late May, road conditions permitting. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; silvercityresort.com.

## Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm; starting 5/26 8am-6pm. See page 2.

### Pay Telephones

(cell phones rarely work) Visitor Center near front door. Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom).



# Facilities: Kings Canyon Area

9

## Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Near a pristine sequoia grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)

9am-4:30pm; 8am-5pm starting 5/25. See page 2.

### Village Center (KCPS)

- Restaurant: Daily 9am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday) through 5/24, then 7am-3pm & 5-9pm. Pizza 1-9pm.
- Gift Shop & Market: Daily 9am-6pm (7pm Friday-Saturday) through 5/24, then 8am-9pm. ATM, supplies, clothing, food, sandwiches, emergency gasoline.
- Lodging: Desk 7am-10pm (midnight starting 5/25). 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.
- Showers: Starting 5/3, 11am-4pm.

### U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

## Cedar Grove: Road opens 5/4

This road opens in stages; see page 12 for details. 4600' elevation. A glaciated valley with cliffs, waterfalls, and the Kings River.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Opens 5/26, daily 9am-5pm. Book store. 1-559-565-3793. Details on page 2. Programs start 6/15.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside lodge & visitor center.

### Village Center (KCPS): Opens 5/17

- Restaurant: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not full service. 5/17-7/7 weekdays 8-10:30am & 5-7pm; weekends 8am-2pm & 5-7pm. Starting 7/8, daily 7am-2pm & 5-8pm.
- Gift Shop/Market: 5/17-7/7 8am-7pm, then 7am-8pm. Sandwiches, supplies, gifts.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-6pm through 7/7, then 7am-1pm & 3-7pm.
- Lodging: Details page 5. First night 5/17. Front desk 8am-7pm; 7am-8pm starting 7/8.

### Horseback Riding: Details on page 5.

### Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Self-

issue permits through 5/24, then daily 7am-3:30pm; maps, bear canisters.

## National Forest & Monument

**Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas:** You enter Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

### USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Daily 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer only at Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see Hume Lake below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

### Lodging - Details on page 5.

### Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open to the public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market & snack shop. North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

### Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

Opens 4/27, daily cave tours 11am-4pm. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours & other trips. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Ages 13 & up \$13.50; 4-12 \$8.50; 3 and younger free. AAA discount. Senior/access pass discounts do not apply. School/group reservations: 888-965-8243.

### Stony Creek Resort (FS)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Opens 5/10. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Market daily 8am-7pm; restaurant 4-6:30pm (both open 1 hour later on Friday-Saturday, and hours increase 7/8). Showers/laundry 9am-6pm. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

### Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

### Horseback Riding - Details on page 5.

### Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; summer at Stony Creek & Kings Canyon Lodge. Hours on page 11.

**Your visit may include both a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS).**  
Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest. Know which one you are in!

Where can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Not on any trails but o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads).	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
<b>Hunt?</b>	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
<b>Drive off-road?</b>	Not in the parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Not in the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
<b>Build fires?</b>	Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. Restrictions change; always check first. Ask why bringing firewood in from far away is not advised.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
<b>Go fishing?</b>	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
<b>Ride a bicycle?</b>	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Be careful & courteous near people & horses.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.

## You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fell in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

### DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear.

### DISEASE CAUTIONS

Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

**TICKS** are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



**WEST NILE VIRUS** is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

### GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

### POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



### HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

### RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



### LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? Hear thunder? Get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above your surroundings, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent or RV.

### OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

### WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; it may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any sightings.



### DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

### ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Prevent illegal marijuana growing. Report any suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

### KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets may be vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in closed vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

## Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map and a jacket.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above you, around you, and on the ground.
- Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with ice, water, or leaves.
- Slow down to safely share roads with people and wildlife.

## Bear Habitat: Proper Food Storage is the Law!

**Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.**

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. The following reduces, but does not eliminate, the risk of a bear break-in:

### Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

### Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.



### Lodge Guests

Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

### Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Backpackers

Hanging food is not effective in these parks! Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets.

### Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

## Wilderness

11

### Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.

### Permits

Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at trailhead locations near where you are hiking or riding.

**Quotas & Permits:** Each trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee (\$15) between late May and late September. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up the afternoon before (starting at 1pm) or by 7am on the day of departure at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the permit.

If you don't have a reservation and the quota for your preferred trail is full, choose another trail for that day or another day to start. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

**Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS):** Permits not required but the FS requires free fire permits for any open flame.

**Camping in the park's "frontcountry"** is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.  
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766  
Fax 565-4239

### High Sierra Lodge

#### Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

Lodging operated by DNC. Open 6/15-9/22, conditions permitting. This tent hotel stands at 7800 feet elevation on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from the Giant Forest. A great opportunity to experience winter in the High Sierra. Reservations required: 1-888-252-5757.

## Your Fees Help the Parks & the Forest!

Most entrance and camping fees stay right here, invested in improving facilities and protecting resources. Fees have paid for repairing roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have updated visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For details on fee options and commercial fees, ask at entrance stations, visitor centers, or search [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for "fees."

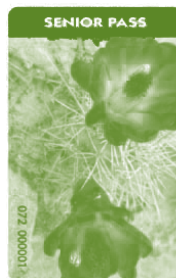
• **7-day pass** to Sequoia & Kings Canyon & Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest: \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass** to Sequoia & Kings Canyon & Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest: \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year. Not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Interagency Annual Pass:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees for one year at federal recreation sites nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Seniors Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime entrance pass for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Accessibility Interagency Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to park entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).





## Gasoline Stations

No gas stations within the park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770.  
Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. Opens 5/10.  
Available 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Opens after 4/27. Gas sold 9am-dark, usually. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

## Rules & Recommendations

### Icy Roads & Trails

Cold spring temperatures can mean slippery areas, especially in the morning and in the shade. If it snows, watch out for plows. Recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341.

### Don't Lose Your Brakes

If you keep a foot on the pedal, brakes may over-heat and fail. Instead, downshift on the downhills. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder but will save your brakes.

### Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

### Prevent Car Fires

Hot brakes & mufflers can easily start fires. Stop only on paved areas, not on grasses.

### Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under 18: helmet required.

### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals along roads. Cars may hit them.



Foothills poppies and lupines

## Vehicle Length Limits

Maximum is 22 feet between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and Giant Forest Museum on Generals Hwy due to a very narrow single-lane road.

Between Potwisha Campground and Hospital Rock, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet. Maximum limit on other parts of the Generals Hwy is 40 feet for single vehicles, 50 feet for vehicle + towed unit.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car.

## Narrow Winding Roads & Spring Road Openings

**Plowing:** Snowplows clear roads in priority order, starting with main park roads. Always park well off the road so they can work safely.

**Openings:** Road openings usually occur by noon. All are weather dependent.

### NEW CLOSURE

**Generals Highway between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (from Wuksachi to Montecito Resort near Hwy 180):** Reopens 4/1.

### In Kings Canyon & National Forest/Monument:

- Hwy 180 East as far as Yucca Point/Kings Canyon Lodge opens 4/13; from there to Boyden Cavern opens 4/27. It opens into Cedar Grove at noon on 5/4 (conditions permitting).
- Panoramic Point opens by 5/24.
- Redwood Mountain roads (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS): Unpaved, unplowed. Open with melt.

### In Sequoia:

- Crystal Cave Road: Opens 5/4, weather permitting. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Opens by 5/18. Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. When shuttle operates (5/24-9/9: see page 6), single vehicles more than 22 feet long are prohibited. On weekends, holidays, & week of July 4th, private vehicles are prohibited on the road. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard.
- Mineral King Road: Opens between 5/25 & 6/21, depending on conditions. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).
- South Fork/Middle Fork roads: Partly unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork opens 3/30.

## Road Construction

### Detours & Delays: Spring 2012

See bulletin boards at visitor centers for updates and details. Thank you for your patience.

### Generals Highway Reconstruction

**Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge** (1.5 miles between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest). Delays through 8/2012. After 5/21, schedules may change:

- **Monday-Thursday, some Fridays:** Delays up to 2 hours 8am-4pm; 1-hour delays 7-8am & 4-5pm; 20-minute delays 6-7am & 5-9pm. Road closed 9pm-6am with one passthrough at 11:30pm.
- **Saturday, Sunday, some Fridays:** 20-minute delays on weekends and other non-working hours.
- **Week before & after Easter:** 1-hour delays.

Vehicles longer than 22' cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum due to Federal Highways limits; long vehicles cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone.

### New Cedar Grove Bridge

Bridge between Hwy 180 and Cedar Grove Village closed through 11/2012. Access the village and lodge via detour on Northside Road. Large vehicles & trailers use Lewis Creek Trailhead as a turnaround.

### Other Road Repairs

Expect intermittent delays on weekdays through summer in several areas of the parks. North of Wuksachi at Halstead Meadow, expect 10-minute delays starting 4/1. Some areas may have brief closures. Beware of narrow, rough roads in construction areas. Use low gear on downhills.

## Driving Times in good weather

### From Foothills to:

<b>Giant Forest</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Lodgepole</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Mineral King</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>

(MK Road closed Nov. 1 - late May)

### From Giant Forest to:

<b>Grant Grove</b> via Generals Hwy	<b>1 hour</b>
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(Hwy opens April 1, conditions permitting)

### From Grant Grove to:

<b>Cedar Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
(Road open May 4 to mid-November)	
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
<b>Yosemite south entry</b>	<b>3 hours</b>

(via Hwy 41)